

**MEETING**  
**UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**  
**October 15, 2018**

**Present:** Charlie Prince, Trustee  
John Slater, Trustee  
Randy Weekly, Trustee

Jessica Slater, Fiscal Officer  
Paula Greene, Administration  
Dave Cable, Road Supervisor

**Guests**

D. Bill Kramer, Karen Nethers, Martha Cable, Penny Slater, Bob and Deena Seaton, Terry Tackett, Granville Twp. Trustee Dan Van Ness, Granville Twp. Fire Chief Casey Curtis, Hebron Fire Chief Cliff Mason, Jack Justice, Rob Griffith, Bill McLaughlin, EMA Director Sean Grady, Rick Black, Leslie Herro, Russ Ginise, Josh Sanders, Mike Bishop, Bill McWilliams, Doug Cunningham, Jay Brown, Brittney Smith, Corey Laughlin, Laney Laughlin, Ronald Hayes, John Black, Craig and Peggy Asplund, Annie & Matt Cucciato, Val Bishop, Curt Painter, Jeff Hupp, Patricia Ford, Douglas and Martine Ruml, Chris Eckels, Walter Ball, Dan Cross, and Michael Tieman.

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 pm on October 15, 2018 at the Union Township Complex. Roll call showed the following trustees present: Trustee Charles Prince, Trustee John Slater, and Trustee Randy Weekly. Jessica Slater, Fiscal Officer, was present. Trustee Prince led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Fire Contract Issues**

After an introduction, Dr. Bill Kramer updated the audience on his study. Dr. Kramer has met with the Township Officials and both Fire Chiefs and encouraged the audience members to reach out to him with questions and/or concerns. As a neutral third party this study will provide a report with the best and most cost-efficient way for the township to provide fire service.

Doug Cunningham questioned how fire service to the township would continue with the demands recently made by the Hebron Fire Chief and understood service to the Granville service area was to be discontinued.

Chief Mason said he was not making any demands and had just delivered a contract proposal provided to him by from the Mayor and Hebron Council for a new contract with the township.

Jay Brown asked Dr. Kramer what the study will review. Dr. Kramer will review fire revenues, response times with the two delivery points and how a third station would affect response time and how safe the community wishes to be. Noting a third station would affect funds to the existing two stations. Consideration will be made to creating a fire district and if so what agencies would be involved. A fire district would then be up to the township voters.

Russ Ginise asked if the National Standard Protection Association (NFPA) response time varies between city and rural areas and how the Granville service area will be affected as Granville Twp. Fire does not want to join a fire district.

Mr. Prince said he wants a contract with Granville, but with modifications as all township residents do not have the same response time. He said Granville wants the contract renewed as it is currently adding a Fire District will not happen this year.

Mike Bishop, a township resident and a Columbus Fireman said Columbus would be adding five new fire houses in the next five to 10 years to reach an 8-minute response time. The NFPA recommends 4-minutes, door to door response time, for the first unit, 80 % of the time but this is unrealistic in this area. In his opinion suburban and rural response times will not meet four minutes and in unrealistic. Several residents agreed.

During the meeting several of the residents requested the trustees renew the current contracts as they are and once the study is complete make modifications to the contract, if necessary. Several in attendance felt increasing Hebron's revenue, while decreasing Granville's, would not reduce response times. Residents also felt Mr. Prince was not listening to them and that they have no complaints regarding the present fire service. Mr. Ginise noted Chief Mason said in a previous meeting, increasing his revenue will not decrease response time.

Mr. Prince said he would have a one-year contract proposal to both parties in two weeks and feels agreements will be in place before the end of the year. The one-year extension will give the trustees time to review the study requested by the residents.

The Licking County Prosecutor's Office has requested an opinion from the Attorney General's Office on how a fire district is funded. Mr. Prince expects their response in the spring of 2019.

Mr. Prince believes Hebron Fire's revenues should increase as they answered far more runs calls and referred to his cost per run formula of Hebron receiving approximately \$1700.00 per run and Granville receiving \$3600.00 per run and feels this is an issue of fairness to Hebron.

Mike Bishop said funding by run was not realistic and asked the revenue of each department. Mr. Prince said from 2014-2017 the averages were: Granville \$248,606 with 70 runs and Hebron \$622,471 with 373.5 runs. The 2018 revenue for Granville was \$295,772 and Hebron \$774,905. Mr. Prince believes some of the increase could be related to the collection of delinquent taxes. Several residents did not believe this was an accurate way to determine funding.

A discussion was held regarding EMS billing and that this revenue should be taken into consideration in the determination of revenue.



Mr. Black said Hebron's responses to Interstate 70 contributes to the higher run volume. Hebron also receives EMS revenue from these runs. No EMS revenue or run numbers to Interstate 70 were available.

Mr. Ginise asked if the Hebron run numbers that are being discussed were into the Union Township service area and how can adjustments to payments be made until it is known if a second station is needed.

Mr. Prince said Hebron is part of Union Township and pays the township's millage plus Hebron's six fire mills. Mr. Prince said he feels the current contracts are not fair and said Granville received a 300% increase in revenue from 2013 to 2014 and reviewed his plans for the funding contracts.

Josh Sanders submitted a petition of over a hundred signatures asking the trustees to leave the current contracts in place until we see the information in the study. Mr. Sanders said he is concerned of Mr. Prince's plans to make changes to contracts before the study is completed and feels Mr. Prince needs the study information for contract changes and not make changes just because he believes the contract is unfair.

Trustee Van Ness expressed concerns about a fire district as a fire district would not decrease response time. Mr. Prince said he has concerns about forming a fire district and said there are many details to be worked out. Mr. Laughlin asked how a new fire district's fire chief would be appointed. The Fire District's Board would appoint the Fire Chief.

An audience member asked Mr. Slater and Mr. Weekly their opinion on the contracts.

Mr. Slater said he has always been in favor of continuing the current contracts and is willing to discuss a fire district. Mr. Slater shared concerns of how the vision of a fire district is formed from the outset including how the township will be protected. Now the Trustees have no say in the day to day expenses of the fire departments.

Mr. Weekly said he agreed with Mr. Slater and wanted to see the results of the study. Mr. Weekly said his goal is additional and better service throughout the township and Hebron either by continuing contracts or creating a fire district.

Mr. Slater said they have been listening to the public for several months and were given a proposal by Hebron which the township could not accept.

A question regarding the proposals Hebron Village's financial demand of a \$95,000 building lease payment to the Village of Hebron once the Fire District is formed noting the current location will not decrease response time.

Mr. Slater feels the payment for the use of the building is the remaining remodeling debt which should go away once the debt is paid and should be included in the Fire District discussion. Mr. Slater said there would not be a need for a Fire District if response time is

not addressed. Chief Mason agreed there would no longer be a payment to the Village for the building once the loan is paid.

Jack Justice said Township Trustees currently have control of fire levy millage, but will not once a Fire District be formed. Mr. Justice voiced his support of Dr. Kramer conducting a study.

Mike Bishop asked Chief Mason what the Fire Department's budget is for 2018 and 2019 adding that the current contract required a five-year plan. He also asked if there were plans for a station outside of the Village.

Chief Mason said the 2018 budget was approximately 1.48 million, the 2019 budget submitted to Council was 1.6 million. The five-year plan was started by the previous Fire Chief's but had not been completed. Chief Mason said the Village of Hebron has no plans to build a fire station outside the unincorporated area of the village.

Bill McCullough shared concerns about Hebron submitting a proposal to the township a week after the hiring of Dr. Kramer at a meeting Mayor McFarland attended. Mr. McCullough was upset Hebron would knowingly request more funding than the township's levies generates and then threatened the trustees that if they did not agree to a Fire District by December 31, 2018, Hebron Fire would no longer service Union Township. He believes the situation should have been handled differently. Mr. McCullough is concerned for the welfare of his family and neighbors.

Chief Mason said the contact document submitted was a proposal not a signed contract, adding the Hebron has provided service in the past without a contract. Chief Mason said the Village would not discontinue service on December 31 if there is no agreement and he did not put the condition of discontinuing service in the agreement. Chief Mason said he was only delivering the agreement.

Mr. Prince said he met with Mayor McFarland, Chief Mason and a council member, advising the Trustees would not accept the proposal. During the meeting Mayor McFarland said he wanted the Trustees to understand Hebron wants a fire district.

A discussion on Mutual Aid was held.

### **Web Site**

Karen Keller-Nethers presented a new web site design for the township. Mrs. Nethers presented a proposal which includes a new site and logo design work, new email addresses, upgrading forms and new web site features, photographs from around the township and shout out emails for a one-time setup fee of \$650 with additional web site services between \$100 and \$200 per month. There is a need for web site additional storage. Mr. Weekly agreed to work with Paula and Karen when needed. The cost of the web site storage would be determined on the township's need. Mr. Prince moved to authorize the new web site design at \$650 and up to \$20 per month for the site operations. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried. It was noted the new site viewed this evening



was ready to go live now with additional information and features to be added.

### **Roads**

Ford F550 – The truck has the new equipment installed and is ready for winter.

Swamp Road Culvert - Dave and John viewed an 8' x 40' galvanized culvert pipe on Swamp Road (near HW Martin Seed) that is deteriorating along with the road edge. Dave prepared a Licking County Engineer's Request form. Mr. Slater moved to request the Licking County Engineer's assistance for the culvert replacement on Swamp Road. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

McNamara/Canyon Culvert Replacement Update - Austin Lecklider, Licking County Prosecutor's Office, contacted Paula earlier today, advising Mrs. McNamara has declined the settlement offer. Mrs. McNamara said wants a fence on the west property line replaced and believes it was removed during the project and will have a statement from her neighbor to this effect. A discussion on correcting the issue of water ponding in several places was held. No action to correct the fence or water issue will be taken until there is a signed agreement with Ms. McNamara.

Trebel Aggregation – The current agreement expires in March. Trebel rejected all the bids from a recent solicitation and will redo it when they believe bids will be more aggressive.

Zoning – A variance and two map amendment hearings are scheduled for late October. A review of the Accessory Dwelling Units will be held after the second hearing. There are two variance applications and a map amendment yet to be filed.

Zoning Commission Applicants – The trustees will meet the applicant's for the Zoning Commission prior to the next trustee meeting.

Recording of Meetings - The digital recording of minutes can begin with a records retention schedule to be implemented at a later date.

Bills - Mr. Slater moved to pay the bills. Mr. Weekly seconded.

Laney McCullough ask who is responsible for driveway culverts in the township. Dave informed her that the township is responsible for one driveway culvert for each property.

### **Minutes**

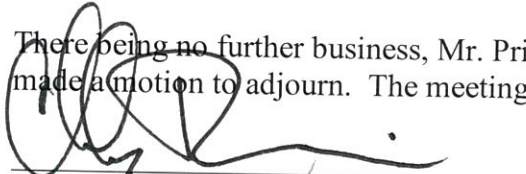
The minutes from October 1, 2018 meetings, had not been reviewed by Mr. Prince prior to the meeting.

### **Bills**

The Fiscal Officer certified that the money to pay the bills was in the treasury or the process of collection. There were no questions regarding the bills. Mr. Weekly moved to approve the bills. Mr. Slater seconded the motion. Motion passed.

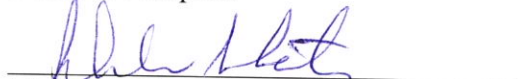
The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday November 5, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

There being no further business, Mr. Prince asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Slater made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:25p.m.



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Mr. Charlie Prince



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Mr. John Slater



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Mr. Randy Weekly



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Jessica Slater      Fiscal Officer